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Stephen Higginson Tung

IN MEMORIAM

HORACE WEBSTER, LL.D.,

LATE, PRESIDENT

OF THE

COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

“*Ἦν γὰρ ἀνὴρ ἀγαθὸς, καὶ ζηλωτὴς καλῶν ἔργων.*”



Compliments of Class of '72

At a meeting of the Class of '72, held Nov. 17th, 1871, the following resolution was passed, and a Committee appointed to publish in behalf of the class, a memorial commemorative of our late President, Dr. WEBSTER:

"We, the members of the class of '72, now the last in College, who have enjoyed the benefits of Dr. WEBSTER'S administration, would express our sorrow for his death, and our appreciation of his many admirable qualities.

"In the course of twenty-one years of generous labor, he had so identified himself with the college, that his loss is sincerely regretted, and it, is in recognition of his worth and of our regard, that, in this memorial, we would recall the career of one whose memory we cherish, and whose influence wherever exerted, has left its indelible impression.

"Recognizing in his devotion to the interests of education, in his fidelity to his trust, and in his sterling excellence, a life well spent, we would reverence his memory and "be of good cheer; for he hath prevailed."

In behalf of the Class,

H. D. COOPER,
H. VAN KLEECK,
S. J. STRAUSS,
J. B. McMASTER,
R. VAN SANTVOORD.

At the opening of the first term of the collegiate year, 1871-2, the Faculty and Instructors of the College of the City of New York, being called together by ALEXANDER S. WEBB, LL. D., President, and by him officially informed of the death of Dr. WEBSTER, unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

“ *Whereas*, it has pleased Divine Providence to remove by death, HORACE WEBSTER, LL. D., the first President of this Institution: and

“ *Whereas*, his demise occurred during our last vacation, when the Professors and Instructors were dispersed, therefore

“ *Resolved*, That we take the earliest opportunity of expressing the high regard we have for his memory, and the profound sympathy we feel for his bereaved family.

“ *Resolved*, that, deeply deploring the death of our venerable Ex-President, and desirous of giving public testimony of our appreciation of his talents and his zeal in the cause of education, and of his upright and Christian course, we will request of his late Pastor, the Rev. Dr. TYNG, such memorial services as that gentleman may be willing to offer; the time and place of holding such service to be at the option of the Rev. Dr. TYNG.”

Extract from the minutes.

G. B. DOCHARTY, LL. D.,

SECRETARY.

At a meeting of the Instructors of the College of the City of New York, called Nov. 6th, 1871, ALEXANDER S. WEBB, President, it was moved by Dr. G. B. DOCHARTY and seconded by Mr. MORRISON:

“Whereas, the REV. DR. TYNG, in acceding to the request of the Instructors of the College of the City of New York, and consenting to cooperate with them in a religious service in commemoration of the Character and Life of HORACE WEBSTER, LL. D., late president of this College, on Friday, the 17th November, has desired that other clergymen suitably related to this occasion should be invited to assist in these duties:

“Resolved, that the Rev. CHANCELLOR HOWARD CROSBY, D. D., LL. D., the Rev. EMERITUS CHANCELLOR ISAAC FERRIS, D. D., LL. D., the Rev. F. A. P. BARNARD, D. D., LL. D., are hereby respectfully and most earnestly requested to assist the Rev. STEPHEN H. TYNG, D. D., in the duties devolving upon him, in consenting to hold a religious service, in commemoration of the Character and Life of HORACE WEBSTER LL. D., our late President.”

G. B. DOCHARTY, LL. D.,

SECRETARY.

ORDER OF EXERCISES,

In Commemoration of HORACE WEBSTER, LL. D.,
In St. George's Church, November 17th, 1871.

1.

Anthem,

"I heard a voice."

2.

Reading of Selections from Holy Scriptures,
By Rev. Dr. BARNARD.

3.

Anthem,

"Now is Christ risen," &c.

4.

Prayer,

By Rev. Dr. FERRIS.

5.

Hymn,

"Asleep in Jesus."

6.

Address,

By Rev. Dr. TYNG.

7.

Address,

By Rev. Dr. CROSBY.

8.

Hymn,

"Who are these, in bright array?"

ADDRESS

BY THE

REV. STEPHEN H. TYNG, D.D.

THE memory of good men is a precious inheritance to those who survive them. It is the divine promise that "the righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance."

One of the chief blessings of human attainment and human experience, I might say perhaps the chief illustration of the value of human reason above the perfection of animal instinct, is in the accumulation of individual excellence, and of special personal experience, both intellectual and moral, as an ever-increasing treasure for succeeding generations of mankind.

Social and relative affection bury our dead, in their earthly sleep, with tenderness, sorrow and undying regret. And the funeral rites, of those whom we really love, are celebrated, with the tears and anguish of grief, as the last separation of earthly bonds which have been inexpressibly precious, and the close of a mutual fellowship of hearts, which in the outward relations of earth, is to be known no more.

But when we come to the Commemoration of the departed, then grief simply remains to deepen and exalt the value of their memory, and the characteristics of our emotion, are thankfulness for the divine gift which bestowed upon us,

agencies so effective and desirable, honor for the human fidelity, which has so wisely and profitably employed the stewardship of divine beneficence, and a proportionate esteem for the records which have been left, and for the influences which may flow, from a life-work of man so well completed and made so effective for others, in the power of the example which it has displayed, and in the fruits of advancing attainment, in knowledge and in virtue, which it has reposed for generations which come after.

Then, all the power of the painter's and the sculptor's art, all the discrimination of the historian's memorial, and all the gratitude of the eulogy and the public utterance of respect and appreciation, are well employed and appropriately selected, to keep before the eye, and the imitation of man, an actual, perpetuated life which should never perish and never be forgotten.

And to this end the Word of God declares, "The righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance," and "Such honor have all His saints."

Such is the occasion which brings us here to-day; not to mourn for the dead, but to commemorate the departed; not to utter our own sorrow to the sympathy of others, but to give expression to our reverence, for the excellence of a personal life finished in our sight; and our gratitude for abiding results of human welfare following upon its completion, and springing from its attainment.

The venerable man whose memory we thus celebrate, was exemplary in every line and aspect of his personal career from youth to old age. *Personally*—as we have seen him in all the dignity of age, dwelling among us, with an exterior aspect, that commanded attention in the highway, and compelled the passer-by involuntarily to turn and look again, upon a form so erect and stately, and a countenance and head so lofty and yet so benevolent, so pure and beautiful, and yet so collected and self-possessed,—he was always remarkable and distinguished. *Socially*, as we have met with him in all the relations of domestic and intimate life, we have witnessed a simplicity of manner, an unselfishness of

feeling, a placidity of demeanor and temper, a kind, cheerful and open accessibility to every communication, and every visitor, and a genial, generous and sincere habit of mind, which domesticated every one in his presence, and excluded or repulsed none, however inferior, who sought acquaintance or needed intercourse with him. *Intellectually*, we have honored him, as possessed of a mind thoroughly educated, and completely well-poised; judicative, rather than discursive, satisfied and confident with conclusions attained, rather than sceptical, and undermining in disputes, foundations which seemed to him to be settled and certain; and presenting that happy attainment, of an understanding contented with its own right conclusions, and never easily disturbed in the possession of the accomplished fruits of his own labored analysis and decision; and a judgment which had winnowed well the harvest he had gathered, and believed in the reality of the wheat which he had laid up in his garner, for the use and the improvement of those committed to him. His manifest taste and habit, were, to hold fast that which he had attained, and to edify by successive acquisitions, rather than continually to upheave that he might lay new foundations, and startle surrounding observers with a professed discovery of destructive errors, buried deep beneath conclusions confidently constructed upon them. It was an exercise of intellect, not so awakening to the sensations of a mixed community, as it was conservative, encouraging, and sustaining, in the maintenance of thoroughly established truth; and to the minds of sober and truth-loving students, and for our day and condition, an exercise of intellect, than which, there can be none more valuable or beneficently effective. He had not embarked in mature life upon a voyage of undefined progression of discovery, careless of the shore on which it might land him at the last; but rather upon a stated passage of well-defined and profitable communication and interchange, by which, if he might not excite the wonder, he would surely promote the happiness, and enlarge the usefulness of mankind. *Religiously*, he was eminently a child of God, a follower of Jesus, a Christian in the most distinct and em-

phatic application of the name. For twenty years was he a Communicant in this Church. For several of those years, one of our vestry, and the superintendent of our Sunday-school. He had embraced the great principles of the Gospel Salvation, in all their freedom of offer, their fulness of provision, and their distinctness of enunciation. He had no doubt of the ground on which he stood, of the character and nature of the Divine Lord, whom he professed to follow, or of the scheme of abounding grace, in which HE receives and justifies every soul believing, that flies to him for refuge and for rest. He was not a man of free exposition by words, of his religious faith, or his personal emotion. Rather, indeed, taciturn and reserved in the proffer of such communications. But there was never room for a question, what were his views, or what would be his conclusion, upon any one of the great questions which attend upon the faith, as revealed in an Infinite and Glorious Saviour. He yielded nothing which he esteemed as truth. And he stood calm, tranquil and decided as a rock amidst the waves, in the controversies of the day, within, or around, the church of which he had been long a member. As a Christian, his whole personal walk was upright, open and faithful; unsectarian, and charitable in his feelings and relations, and adorning the purposes of unshrinking fidelity, with the meekness of wisdom which makes the whole beauty of a truly Christian life.

He went in and out among us here, as a man spotless in repute, and faithful in duty; habitual and engaged in all the public services of the Sanctuary; enjoying with grateful and evident pleasure, the worship and instruction which were here provided; and the faithful supporter and friend of a pastor, who truly reciprocated all his manifested veneration and love.

Thus he finished his career with us, in the congregation of this Church of Jesus, until his removal from the city of New York, to his former home in the town of Geneva. There the vigor of his remarkable physical constitution yielded; and many months of confinement, in feebleness and decay, were prepared for his endurance.

In quietness and patience he sustained an unaccustomed and progressing general debility, until the strong pillars of his active life gave way. And peacefully and happily he departed, cheered by the most faithful domestic love, and blessing and being blest in the midst of an household of which he was the pride and joy, the "*decus et tutamen*," in which they had delighted, through all their history.

Of these last days, the faithful companion of his whole mature life, says in a private note :

"In regard to my dear husband's last illness, it was of that character not to alarm us until towards the last. His nature was undemonstrative and reticent, although perfectly decided and firm. His mind remained clear to the last ; and his expressions of faith and trust in his Saviour, were unclouded and firm. Once I said to him, 'Can you trust your Saviour?' 'O, what should I do without Him,' he replied. To my brother, the night before his death, in answer to an enquiry, 'How he felt,' he said, putting his hand on his heart, 'Peace;' and lifting it, 'Glory.' Too feeble to express any more by words."

Thus he departed, honored and loved by all who knew him ; prized and rested upon by all who were connected with him. His family and friends laid him quietly to slumber in the grave. His associates, his pupils and the honored Trustees of the College, to which, for more than twenty years, he gave the ripest fruits of his learning, his experience, his judgment and his watchful care, have united to inaugurate this commemoration of his character ; and thus to testify the gratitude and reverence with which they retain the remembrance of his worth.

Fairly to exhibit him now, as an example for those who may contemplate this close of his distinguished career, and desire more fully to know and more statistically and in detail the history of a life so useful and honored, we may close with a short summary of his personal history, in the facts which have made it up.

His birthplace, on the 21st September, 1794, was in the town of Hartford, on the Eastern side of Vermont, in the

Valley of the Connecticut. Here his youth was passed amidst the simple habits and the active pursuits of a rural life, in that high and healthful climate. The value of the sturdy health then attained, was seen in the remarkable activity and endurance of his whole subsequent life. His early habits of simplicity and economy never forsook him; and his remarkable order in the employments of life, and the indifference, almost insensibility to the influence of weather, which distinguished him to old age, were the fruits of the quiet and systematic education which he received in that retired and well-managed mountain home.

At twenty years of age he received an appointment as a Cadet at West Point; perfectly prepared by the experience of youth for the hardy education of that eminent Academy at that period. He entered upon the course of study there with a discipline of mind and habit which rendered him thoroughly fitted for all the advantages of the place. Obedience, perseverance and order, were the fixed characteristics of his sense of obligation, and of his habit of enjoyment. Too dignified to be trifling, too conscientious to be negligent or untrue, too radically pure to be tempted by vice, too habitually self-controlled to be impatient of authority or restraint; and with an uncommon reach and systematized habit of mind; it was not wonderful, that he should reap the honors of his position, and graduate among the few distinguished ones who led the class.

At this period of four and twenty years of age, his ripened virtuous youth had become an incorruptible and commanding maturity. And if he brought much from the purifying restraints and guidance of his mountain home, he also gained much for all his future work, from the severe, exact, but recompensing system, of drill and study, which has always been illustrated in that Elevated School.

Professor Davies says of him there, "The time spent at West Point in these disciplinary studies, was the golden period of his life. There were laid the foundations of those useful labors which were its crowning glory."

His distinguished merit as a pupil, during the whole

period of his academical career, led to his immediate employment there, as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics; in the duties of which professorship he was employed for the five succeeding years.

How true and sure it is, that in our free and discriminative land, no real merit can pass concealed or unrewarded. Let a young man be true and faithful to himself, to his obligations and opportunities, and the doors of usefulness and honor are perfectly sure to be opened to him in a due succession, as the hereditary right of merit and virtue.

At the foundation of the promising College at Geneva, in this State, it was without difficulty, or surprise, that this noble youth was elected as its first Professor of Mathematics. Here, for twenty-five years, he gained a constantly-increasing reputation and enlarging influence. And though the Institution was but young, his name became widely known, as among the most eminent and desirable instructors in our country.

When the Free Academy of the City of New York was established, now "the College of the City of New York," the Board of Trustees displayed a wise discrimination and a creditable perception of personal character and merit, in the election of Dr. Webster, as its first and organizing President. The whole history and experience of his life, then in its 54th year, qualified him to be, for young men, whose fidelity and industry were to make their own living, and to establish their own position in the world, an admirable instructor, and a most efficient and practical example. No man knew better the road by which an upright and faithful American youth must rise to eminence and usefulness. No man more thoroughly sympathized with the earnestness of virtuous purpose, in the midst of limited circumstances, which was to be the power and the guide of a successful youth, in the professions and employments of this favored land. He had himself trodden every step in a youth of economy, submission, industry and faithfulness, which made the path of a New England country boy, to the pinnacle of respectability, usefulness and renown. And he could say to every boy of honorable ambition around him, "All this I saw, and much of this I was."

No man in this country, had enjoyed better opportunities or more appropriate openings, to study the experiments of intellectual and practical training, and to arrive at the most desirable results for the construction and management, of an institution like this, with its peculiar materials and its singularly-practical designs.

The honored Trustees of this Academy, in this single formative election, vindicated the reputation of their ability, and commanded the abiding confidence of the community whom they represented, and for whose sons they were to prepare and organize this new and grand provision.

In his more than twenty-two years' fidelity of service in this exalted post, he did not deceive their hopes, or disappoint their expectations.

Prof. DAVIES says of this distinguished career, "Few men have left behind them a nobler record. He had a great work assigned him, and he lived long enough to perfect it. He will be long remembered as an able educator. His academic life was marked, by a love of knowledge, which grew and strengthened with his years; by habits of study, early formed and long continued; by a firm and gentle manner, which commanded obedience and won regard; by a sense of justice never weakened by fickleness or passion; and by a punctuality in the discharge of every duty, which was an admonition to the heedless, an encouragement to the orderly, and a beautiful example to all."

My whole observation thoroughly concurs in this impartial and well-informed statement. And the act of this day, demonstrating the final opinion of the Trustees and the Faculty of the College which he was thus commissioned to organize, and which he so successfully conducted, is the full and final assurance of the harmony of feeling with which he was honored; and the grateful and respectful remembrance in which he is held.

We thus commemorate, not with sadness and grief, but with gratitude and thanksgiving, this honored and eminent man. He has acted well and lived nobly; and the whole results of life combine to crown the record of its procedure,

with a remembrance as useful to succeeding competitors in his chosen course, as it is honorable to himself. "The righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance." Learning acknowledges the merit of a faithful and successful student. Education, points with grateful delight, to a life faithfully and triumphantly spent in the enlargement of its fields, and the elevation of its wise purposes and plans. Society contemplates the worth of a character untarnished by its temptations, and demonstrating the dignity and purity of its possible associations and enjoyment. The Church of God honors a career of faith and duty, exemplifying the precious concession that there may be a life of real devotion to adopted truth, without sectarian acerbity; and a love for all who love the Saviour, consistent with the most earnest devotion to special forms and associations adopted in His service. Jesus, the Great and Glorious Lord of all, accepts the simplicity of a self-renouncing faith in him, and crowns with everlasting joy a life "perfecting holiness, in the fear of God." While over him, in the glory of a new and eternal world, the heavenly voice announces, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."



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The College of the City of New York, Nov. 24th, 1871.

REV. STEPHEN H. TYNG D. D.,

Dear Sir,

It gives me great pleasure to communicate to you the following resolution, which was passed yesterday, at a meeting of the Faculty and Instructors, of the College of the City of New York.

*“Resolved—*That we hereby officially and personally express our hearty thanks to the Rev. STEPHEN H. TYNG, D. D., for his great kindness in directing the recent impressive services, in memory of the late HORACE WEBSTER, LL. D., and especially for his very eloquent, faithful, and instructive portraiture of his life and character.

“And furthermore, that we cordially sanction the spontaneous act of the Senior Class of the College, requesting a copy of that discourse for publication.”

I have the honor to remain with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

ALEX. S. WEBB,

PRESIDENT.